



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

For Immediate Release

OWI-1357

ANNOUNCE 1943 ALASKA FISHERIES REGULATIONS

The Alaska fisheries regulations for 1943 contain fewer changes than for many years in the rules for protecting the commercial fisheries of Alaska, it was announced today by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes. Transportation conditions and other problems due to the war made it inadvisable to hold the usual public hearings on the regulations, although, it was explained, all interested persons were given full opportunity to submit briefs or requests for desired changes.

Salient features of the 1943 regulations include:

In the Bristol Bay area the opening date for red salmon fishing has been advanced one day to June 25, and all commercial fishing has been prohibited in the small Ugashik district.

Additional protection has been given the odd year pink salmon runs in the Cook Inlet area, in the Karluk region of the Kodiak area, and in the Southern district of the Southeastern Alaska area, by making the usual earlier odd year seasonal dates effective. Valdez Arm in the Prince William Sound area, heretofore opened to commercial fishing later than in other sections of the area, has been closed to fishing on the regular seasonal closing date of August 5.

Minimum mesh requirements for gill nets in salmon fishing in the Icy Strait, Western, Eastern, Clarence Strait, and Southern Districts, in force for the first time in 1942, have been deleted from the 1943 regulations.

No action has been taken with regard to adjustments in fish trap activities as any steps along this line necessarily will depend upon the outcome of plans under consideration to consolidate cannery operations for the duration.

An increase in the herring catch quota of 50,000 barrels will permit a take of 200,000 barrels in the Kodiak area during the period from July 1 to October 15. In the Southeastern Alaska area an increase in the quota will permit a catch of 100,000 barrels during the period from June 1 to September 30 in specified waters.

The three 6-day closed periods effective during the 1942 season in the Kodiak area quota waters have been revoked.

Quota waters in the Prince William Sound area have been extended to include the entire area, and commercial herring fishing, except by gill nets or for bait, is prohibited during the period from October 16 to one year to June 23 of the following year.

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Regulations providing a maximum take of razor clams from certain central bars in Prince William Sound and Copper River areas have been modified to remove special restrictions previously applied within one statute mile of First Egg Island. The season for the taking of shrimp in Southeastern Alaska has been lengthened 15 days allowing fishermen to begin operations on April 16 instead of May 1.